

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4874
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
FSSAI
Sonker Smt. Neelam

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) to (e): Some delays in clearance of imported food consignments occur on account of delays in filing of application by the importer, payment of fee, acknowledgement by the importer for inspection and sampling and required time taken for carrying out lab analysis. A number of steps have been taken by the Government for smooth and speedy clearance of imported food consignments. These include:
- i) developed of an Information Technology based system viz., Food Import Clearance System (FICS) by FSSAI at six ports namely Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Cochin and Tuticorin, for sharing of information, and its integration with Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade;
 - ii) introduction of Risk Management System by Customs Authorities, in consultation with FSSAI, for reducing the sampling of imported food consignments;
 - iii) issue of provisional No Objection Certificate immediately for imported food items, having very short Shelf-life (less than 7 days) such as fresh fruit, processed cheese, etc.;
 - iv) allowing drawal of single sample out of the commingled cargo of pulses, oils and other food grains such as cereals, for multiple importers with same Import General Manifest number; and
 - v) enhancing the number of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) notified laboratories to 125 and referral labs increased to 16, for faster testing of samples.